

Alexander Lukashenko, in the upcoming elections in 2006. The opposition is united, the people are motivated for change, and we just ask for free and fair elections.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HOLT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FILM SUPREME COURT PROCEEDINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, over the past year I have addressed many issues I have with the judgments handed down by the highest court of our country, the Supreme Court, right across the street.

Recent rulings by the Supreme Court of the United States, particularly pertaining to the separation of church and State, property rights, the right to say the pledge of allegiance, and the use of foreign law by our Supreme Court in interpreting the American Constitution, have prompted an outcry by the American people and a growing interest, or better yet, confusion, confusion on how those decisions are made.

The decisions made by the Supreme Court have a direct impact on the lives of Americans and every American in the future. With that said, I believe it is past time that every American be afforded the opportunity to see how those decisions are made in this Court.

I filed legislation that would allow cameras to broadcast Supreme Court proceedings so that we can all see the arguments made before the Supreme Court and how they make those decisions that affect our lives from now on.

I am no stranger to cameras in the courtroom. I was one of the first Texas judges to allow cameras in the courtroom. In addition, I was the first judge in Texas to oversee a capital murder trial broadcast in its entirety on television. Our sense of justice says the more open and public a trial, the more likely justice will occur.

I found that cameras only enhanced this concept. As a criminal court judge for 20 years, I have had countless cases covered by the media from all over the world. Critics argue that attorneys play to the cameras; but the truth is, they play to the jury. They always have played to the jury. Juries are the ones that make the decisions, not the audience.

Courts have the ability to prevent filming of the jurors, child witnesses, assault victims while letting the community see the public trial. Cameras make the ability of the people to view justice as it is in progress.

In the case of cameras broadcasting the Supreme Court hearings, there is no jury, just nine Justices who have the final say on the American Constitution. Because of the magnitude of the rulings handed down by this Court, these proceedings above all others should be as open to the public as possible.

While the hearings are, in fact, open to the public, not everyone has the ability to travel to Washington, D.C. and view these proceedings. This is why it is precisely time to come to the reality to open the Supreme Court to public hearings and allow their proceedings to be filmed by cameras.

Cameras can be unobtrusive. There are no big lights. There are no big cameras. In fact, many people do not even realize there are cameras in this Chamber. So it is time to film these proceedings. Opening these proceedings to the American public is much more important than seeing the child molestation trial of the King of Pop or the murder trial of some ex-football player.

Yet there was no concern over viewing these proceedings on television. Why should there be concern over a Court that has the final say on how our Constitution is interpreted? This year the Iraqi country, the Iraqi people have formed a new democracy, and part of that is a new judiciary. And yet they are already filming their trials, because the tyrant of the area, Saddam Hussein, his trial is on international television. This is their democracy and their courts seem to be somewhat more open than even ours.

Those judges and critics who do not want the public to view what they are doing in those courtrooms, Mr. Speaker, maybe should not be doing what they are doing behind those closed doors. It is time to open the Supreme Court to public viewing of their proceedings on television.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 75. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2141. An act to make improvements to the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

CONGRATULATIONS TO APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I join my friend and colleague, Ms. FOXX, tonight. This morning I paid tribute to our wonderful men and women in uniform for a great win for freedom in Iraq.

But tonight, Representative FOXX and I want to pay tribute to a great team, Appalachian State, for a wonderful win in the national championship that they won last night in Division I-AA football. What a thrill it was to watch those young men, their fans, their school administrators, the whole Appalachian community come together through a tough play-off, exhibiting sportsmanship, hard work, commitment, incredible enthusiasm, and to win that game last night.

Take nothing away from Northern Iowa, they played hard. They played well. Appalachian prevailed. Seeing the spirit that those young men and women exhibited, coaches, who by the way, ladies and gentlemen, Coach Jerry Moore, the winning coach, was given his first coaching job by our colleague, Coach OSBORNE. And Coach Moore reflects all of the wonderful qualities of Coach OSBORNE.

By the same token, I thank Representative FOXX for calling attention to my son-in-law, Lonnie Galloway, who coaches there; and I am so proud of him and all of the folks.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to Representative FOXX for some comments.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Mr. HAYES.

I am glad you mentioned with Coach Moore serving with Coach OSBORNE, Congressman OSBORNE. I did not get a chance to mention that this morning. I agree with you: he exhibits so much of all of the wonderful traits of our colleague, and we are lucky that we have at least three people in this body who have connections to Appalachian and to the great win that they had last night.

I am really sorry that our duties here prevented us from being in Chattanooga last night with so many Appalachian students and supporters.

I would have loved to see firsthand that crushing defense in the fourth quarter led by Jason Hunter and Marques Murrell. I wish I could have been there to witness in person the courage of quarterback Richie Williams, who played through a painful ankle injury suffered last week in the semifinal game against Furman.

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Appalachian is getting a lot of attention because of this football win. But the gentleman and I know and the people of western North Carolina and, indeed, all North Carolina know that Appalachian has always been known as a first-rate college and a first-rate university. It has a very proud history,